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NSC BRIEFING

22 July 1959

VICA PRESIDENT NIXON IN USSR

- I. Vice President Nixon's visit to USSR and the US Exhibition has been given substantial Soviet news coverage.
 - A. Guarded approval gives the overall purpose of such exchanges.
 - B. However, Soviets have intensified efforts to undermine impact--at home and abroad--of these exchanges.
 1. Have been sharp criticisms and effort to show that US intentions not entirely peaceable and that exhibit not a true picture of life in the US.
 2. Vice President Nixon being portrayed as man stymied time and again by sharp political questions of "hard workmen."
- II. Pattern of Soviet press and radio treatment clearly reflects the cautious attitude of Soviet leaders with respect to the visit's impact on the populace.
 - A. During first four days Radio Moscow broadcast total of 26 commentaries on the visit to all its audiences. Only 7 of these beamed to Soviet audiences.
 1. During a comparable time, Moscow broadcast 130 commentaries on Macmillan's visit; less than 40 during Nikoyan's visit to US.
 - B. USSR radio audiences, however, have heard many factual news items, and Moscow press has carried spots of items--most intended to cast doubt on exhibition as picture of US life. 26

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- C. Radio Moscow broadcast Pravda account of Nixon-Khrushchev debate prior to formal opening of exhibition 41 times--once each to nearly all its audiences, including only once to Soviet audiences.
1. Pravda gave Khrushchev all the best--63 sentences as against 11 for Vice President Nixon.
 2. The Vice President's debating points totally suppressed and he was reported variously as "in a hurried retreat" or as finding one topic "obviously not after his taste."
- D. According to TASS the debate was telecast in full.
1. We do not yet have confirmation.
 2. The Vice President's two public speeches were published in full only by Pravda and Izvestia, although both were broadcast.
 1. His arrival speech was broadcast in Russian on the Home Service.
 2. His speech at the exhibition opening was broadcast to the home audience in English only.
- III. Vice President Nixon "heckled" in Moscow and in Novosibirsk, but "hecklers" obviously planted Party agitators.
- A. Moscow "hecklers" quoted US statistical reports to refute figures on US wages, cost of living, and employment. Such figures not normally available to populace.
 - B. Those in Novosibirsk even more obviously planted and dwelled on questions concerning US foreign policy, particularly US foreign bases.